

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 INT-08 SCI-06 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 /192 W

----- 064934

R 231650Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9769

INFO USCINCSO

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOR INTENSIFIES ITS EFFORTS TO PURCHASE ARMS

REF: QUITO 0325

1. EVIDENCE IS ACCUMULATING THAT ECUADOR IS INTENSIFYING ITS EFFORTS TO PURCHASE ARMS.

2. MY BELGIAN COLLEAGUE CAME TO SEE ME JANUARY 22. HE SAID THAT THE ECUADOREANS HAVE APPROACHED HIM TO BUY AIR TO AIR (*), GROUND TO AIR, AND ANTI-TANK MISSILES. THEY OFFERED TO PAY EITHER CASH OR BARTER WITH OIL.

3. MY BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUE TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT ECUADOR HAD PURCHASED 25 SUBSONIC TRAINING PLANES (AT-26 EMBRAER/AERMACCHI-EMB3266B, XAVANTE) FROM BRAZIL AS WELL AS TRUCKS AND MISCELLANEOUS SMALL EQUIPMENT. GOE HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN FURTHER PURCHASES AND A "CLOSER RELATIONSHIP" WITH BRAZIL WHICH GOB, AMBASSADOR SAID, IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDED PETROBRAS CAN GET A BETTER DEAL ON PETROLEUM.

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4. AS THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS REPORTED SEPARATELY, GOE IS

ALSO ATTEMPTING TO BUY THE U.S. MANUFACTURED, HUGHES AIR-CRAFT COMPANY TOW MISSILE FROM ISRAEL (IN ADDITION TO OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS FIELD WIRE AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT) AND IS INTERESTED AS WELL IN A FRENCH MISSILE WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO THE TOW MISSILE SYSTEM.

5. COMMENT: THE RECENT BORDER FLAP WITH PERU (SEE REFTTEL) HAS CLEARLY UNDERSCORED ECUADOREAN DESIRE TO RE-EQUIP AND STRENGTHEN ITS ARMED FORCES. IF WE ARE NOT SOON IN A POSITION TO SELL ECUADOR AT LEAST SOME OF THE MATERIEL IT WANTS AND TO RESUME THE TRAINING IT SO CLEARLY DESIRES WE SHALL VERY SIMPLY BE TOO LATE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WHICH THESE ACTIONS WOULD AFFORD US.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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